

## The Manure Spreader

By H. H. Schutz, Assistant Professor Agronomy New Mexico A. & M. College

ONE often hears the contention that it is not necessary to manure our soils on account of their great fertility and the continual replenishment of plant food by the irrigation waters of the Rio Grande. Analysis made by the New Mexico College of Agriculture, of the water and sediment of the Rio Grande indicated that the greatest feeder of all of our crops removes less plant food from the land than is added by using two feet of water in irrigating. A five ton crop of alfalfa removes 211 pounds of nitrogen, 83 pounds of phosphoric acid and 205 pounds of potassium sulfate; whereas two acre feet of average Rio Grande water contains 1911 pounds potassium sulfate, 116 pounds phosphoric acid and 107 pounds of nitrogen. The only deficiency is seen to be nitrogen, but with alfalfa, which uses more plant food than most of our crops, this is not serious inasmuch as it gathers large quantities from the air.

### Manure Acts Quickly.

Most of the fertilizing material carried by the irrigation water is contained in the sediment, which does not yield its plant food any more readily than does the sediment deposited decades ago. Farm manure, on the other hand, is a quick acting fertilizer and surrenders its vitalizing properties comparatively easily.

Farm manure will improve the physical condition of soils like our heavy clay, or "adobe," ones, rendering them much easier to plow and cultivate. Heavy soils may be manured more heavily than sandy ones, which should be given light but frequent applications. The power to retain moisture given by the incorporation of manure is one of the most valuable arguments in favor of its use. King found that for an average of three years an acre of unmanured fallow land contained 34.4 tons less water than adjacent manured land, and in a dry season the difference was 72 tons in favor of the manured soil.

### Water Soaked Manure.

Even wetting the surface of the soil with water carrying manure in solution, the rate of evaporation was cut down by one-half under the same conditions. An easy and safe method of applying goat manure, of which there are vast quantities in both the upper and lower valleys, is to shovel it into the ditch while irrigating the garden or meadow and allow the water to carry it to the plants. Coarse manure may be harmful in dry seasons by de-

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## THE EL PASO HERALD FARMING PAGE

### DRY FARMING IN THE DOMAINS OF SOLOMON

Dr. Aaron Aaronsohn, who recently left Washington, D. C., for Palestine, where he will assume charge of the Jewish Agricultural experiment station at Haifa, announces that this station will cooperate with the Dry Farming congress in the introduction of dry farming methods in Palestine. It is expected that a report on the preliminary work for the establishment of this station will be presented at the Fifth Dry Farming congress in Spokane, the first week in October.

Dr. Aaronsohn, who is international vice president and corresponding secretary of the Dry Farming congress for the division for Turkey, passed the greater part of the last year in the United States studying agricultural conditions and methods. He attended the Fourth Dry Farming congress at Billings, Mont., last October, when he made the first public announcement of his discovery of the prototype of our modern wheats in the wild wheat of Palestine.

This discovery is regarded by scientists and plant breeding experts as one of the most important of the century, resulting from agricultural research. He explained his plans for a proposed experiment station in Palestine and as a result of the strong endorsement given he was enabled to announce the formation of an American company pledged to the establishment and support of the proposed station.

The Jewish Agricultural Experiment station is incorporated under the laws of the state of New York. A site has been secured seven miles from Haifa, where a tract of 125 acres has been obtained. Station buildings will be erected at once. The equipment secured in America includes the latest scientific instruments for soil investigations and meteorological observations and records. Climatological observations and records will be made by the station. The United States weather bureau, this being the first introduction of these methods in Asia Minor.

The station will be under the general management of a board of trustees, mostly residents of this country. Dr. Aaronsohn, the director, is a graduate of the agricultural school at Grignon, and has been conducting investigations, mainly under the patronage of the Turkish government, in Palestine and the surrounding region for a number of years.

Both research and practical demonstration work are contemplated, the general object being the improvement of agriculture among the Jewish colonists and farmers of the region. A special line of investigation is to be the following up of Dr. Aaronsohn's discovery of wild prototypes of cereals.

Wild Prototypes of Wheat.

Dr. Aaronsohn found the wild prototype of wheat on the slopes of Mount Hebron and had discovered other wild grains in the dry regions of Palestine, which lead him to believe that this region produces the original plants from which our modern cereals have been developed.

Agriculture has been carried on in Palestine since the earliest times of which history gives any record. The conditions are essentially suited for dry farming. Irrigation is practiced to a limited extent along the streams, but the topography of the country prohibits extensive irrigation projects. The soil is fertile and the climate peculiarly favorable to agricultural development.

A recent summary of the possibilities of the region and a forecast of its future are given in Dr. Henry Van

Dyke's "Out of Doors in the Holy Land."

"It is indeed not impossible that wise methods of colonization, better agriculture and gardening, the development of fruit orchards and vineyards, and above all, more rational government and equitable taxation, may one day give back to Palestine something of her old prosperity and population. If the Jews really want it, no doubt they can have it. Their rich men have the money and the influence, and there are enough of their poorer folk scattered through Europe to make any land blossom like the rose, if they have the will and the patience for the slow toll of the husbandman and the vine dresser and the shepherd and the herdsmen."

**Kingdom of David and Solomon.**  
"But the proud kingdom of David and Solomon will never be restored; not even the tributary Kingdom of Herod. For the land will never again stand at the crossroads, the four corners of the civilized world. The Suez canal to the south and the railways through the Lebanon and Asia Minor to the north have settled that. They have left Palestine in a corner, off the main traveled roads. The best she can hope for is a restoration to quiet felicity, to placid and humble industry, to olive-crowned and vine-girdled felicity, never again to power."

"And if that lowly reclamation comes to her, it will not be on the story heights around Jerusalem; it will be in the Plain of Sharon, in the outgoings of Mount Ephraim, in the green pastures of Gilad, in the lovely region of 'Galilee of the Gentiles.' It will not be by the sword of Gideon, nor by the scepter of Solomon, but by the sign of peace and on earth good will among men."

**A Reconciliation.**  
Such a "lowly reclamation" is contemplated by Dr. Aaronsohn and the patriotic Jewish-Americans who are making possible the establishment of the Jewish agricultural experiment station. Dr. Aaronsohn has seen the results of dry farming in the western plains and farmer-land of America and has determined to apply the principles of our modern agriculture to the rehabilitation of the grain fields and vineyards of his mother country.

He believes that with the scientific principles of dry farming and modern methods of cultivation applied to the fertile valleys and hillside of Palestine, these ruins of ancient cities, whose broken marble columns, "saturated with the sunshine of a thousand years," stand mute monuments of departed power and grandeur, may again be surrounded with fields of yellow grain soaked with the sunbeams of smiling summer, whose harvests will be on the foundation of an "olive-crowned and vine-girdled felicity," the symbol of a nation's permanent prosperity.

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AGRICULTURAL NOTES.  
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By H. H. Schutz.

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S. H. Bailey says that weather cannot be bad because it is not a human institution.

On a good level macadam road 60 pounds will move a ton; 120 pounds two tons.

The low protein content of corn makes it undesirable for feeding colts. Five pounds corn may be used in place of six pounds oats in feeding farm animals.

Oats are more easily digested than corn in feeding.

feed the oats during the day and the corn at night. French experiments have shown that horses fed on corn are able to work longer hours and at the same pace as those fed on oats.

A farmer should study the crop that brings him the best returns and specialize in it. It pays to buy the best machinery for handling it and to give it continuous attention.

Onion seedlings set too deep, especially in heavy soils, do not make good bulbs.

Dusting cucumbers, melons and pumpkins with ashes and tobacco dust scented with a drop of carbolic acid as soon as they are up will keep the bugs off.

Cucumbers, squashes and melons will not cross with each other notwithstanding the common notion of detecting pumpkin flavor in melons. The different varieties of each will cross.

The board of food and drug inspection at Washington has decided that brands of melons like the Rocky Ford and of oranges like the Indian river have not become sufficiently generic to be types of melons and oranges, but are merely of particular excellence due to geographical locality where grown. It is unlawful to use these names for branding seed or fruit not products of these regions.

The main purpose of irrigation is to apply the necessary amount of water to the soil. About three-fifths of the volume of clay soils and two-fifths of sandy soils is open space, loams in between. Soils to produce good growth should contain one pound of free water to 10 pounds of soil.

### THE WEATHER.

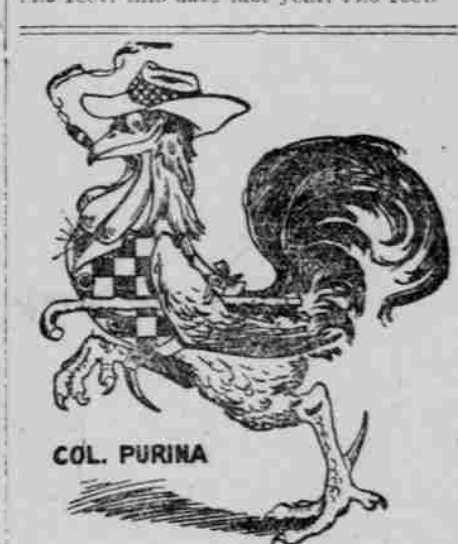
#### Forecast.

For El Paso and Vicinity.—Fair tonight and Sunday.

For New Mexico.—Generally fair tonight and Sunday.

For West Texas.—Tonight and Sunday generally cloudy; warmer tonight in northern portion.

River at El Paso.—Height of surface this morning above fixed zero mark, 14.2 feet; this date last year, 14.3 feet.



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EL PASO

### Dry Farming Do's and Don'ts

By H. H. Schutz, Assistant Professor Agronomy New Mexico A. & M. College

Bulletin 61 of the New Mexico College of Agriculture gives a comprehensive view of Dry Farming in New Mexico and some of the results that have been accomplished by people who have made a success of this difficult form of agriculture. The following are some of the points well worth noting by dry farmers:

1. Give attention to detail.
2. Double disc by lapping one-half as soon as the crop is removed.
3. Plow deep, from 8 to 12 or more inches before the rainy season sets in.
4. Form a level, fine surface after plowing before leaving the field each fall day.
5. Renew the surface mulch as soon after every shower as the soil is dry enough to work without puddling.
6. Cultivate at intervals of from two to four weeks whether it does or does not rain.
7. If the ground was plowed in the fall, cultivate with a light harrow as early in the spring as possible, following this by a deeper cultivation when the soil has dried out somewhat more deeply.
8. Sow or plant rather deeply with a machine that will deposit the seed at an even depth in the moist soil beneath the surface dust mulch—leaving a loose surface above.
9. After seeding cultivate at frequent intervals, and as soon after each rainfall as possible, suiting the cultivation in frequency, depth and continuance to the crop and the conditions prevailing.
10. Begin harvesting rather early and remove the crop from the field promptly.

### MANY CARLOADS OF CATTLE ARE ARRIVING

Between 75 and 100 loads arrive from Mexico En Route to Pasture in the United States.

From 75 to 100 carloads of cattle were received at the local port Friday evening and Saturday morning. Several consignments have been inspected and passed through the port. J. W. Arlin received 31 head, R. F. W. Morse, 20, W. Williams 940, and John T. Caudill 871 head. The remaining consignments will be passed through Saturday.

The entry of cattle to the States from Mexico is less than last year, according to reports from the customs and railroad men. Of cattle are being shipped from the southwestern States for the ranches of the country they will be kept for some time.

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